

THE

GATEWAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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PRIZE WINNING
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Senators debate security, privacy rights of Scott Hall, Village residents

Student Senate



Steve Massara

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Senators debated the security of South Campus residents, listened to presentations and approved funding for hockey buses during its final meeting of 2006.

Joshua Wiechman, a senator representing the senior class, and Speaker Cassy Loseke introduced a letter of statement call on student government to "take an official stance that invading the privacy and security of student tenants is unlawful and unnecessary." The letter alleges recent incidents where employees of College Park Communities, the property manager for Scott Residence Hall and Scott Village, "entered into apartment-suites without consent and adequate notification," which Wiechman described as a "knock-and-unlock" policy.

College Park Property Manager Jonathan Orlich attended the meeting and was invited to speak by Loseke. He deferred to Resident Director David Daro, a UNO computer science major, who is charge of managing the resident assistances for the College

Park properties at UNO.

"The procedures that the RAs are trained with are respectful," Daro said. "We do have a policy in place that I feel does respect all students' rights."

Wiechman said he felt the problem was with interpretation, not the policy itself, and characterized the discussion as a "student rights issue" as well as in terms of the "national issue of privacy." Loseke agreed with Weichman, citing both the Fourth Amendment and the guidelines of the Board of Regents.

The senate decided to table the letter until its next meeting following much discussion and a voice vote, in which there was some dissent but no call for division.

"It went well. I was happy with all the comments. It just showed the senators care," Loseke said. "Even if [the letter] doesn't pass, I think we got our point across."

In addition to the tabled resident security letter, the senate did pass four other letters of statement. Two of the letters commended David Klug and Crystal Rhoades, who both won public offices in this November's election. Another letter lauded student government's Women's Resource Center.

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photo by Patrick Doty

Flower power forward

Senior Karen Thies presents women's basketball coach Patty Patton Shearer with flowers Sunday afternoon to commemorate her 100th career win as a college coach. See complete story on pg. 4.

Latin museum founder to receive alumni association's highest honor



Magdalena Garcia

MIKE GERHART
STAFF WRITER

Magdalena García, founder and executive director of El Museo Latino, has been named the next recipient of the Citation for Alumnus Achievement from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The Citation is the UNO Alumni Association's highest honor, encompassing professional achievement, community service, involvement in business and professional associations as well as fidelity to UNO.

García called the award "a great

honor," but said it wasn't her goal when she opened the museum.

Lee Denker, president and CEO of the alumni association, will present the award to García, who is the 142nd recipient of the citation.

"Magdalena is a respected leader within the Omaha arts community and has certainly distinguished herself among our graduates," Denker said in a statement. "Her accomplishments with the museum and elsewhere have furthered knowledge of and pride in the rich canvas of Latino roots and culture."

García graduated from UNO in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in art history. She went on to receive her master's

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UNO professor calls for Omaha police oversight, public auditor

TAYLOR MULLER
ASST. NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

A recent decision by the mayor to fire his public safety auditor was a mistake and will allow racism in the police department, said UNO Professor of Criminal Justice Samuel Walker.

On Oct. 30, Mayor Mike Fahey fired Omaha's Public Safety Auditor Tristan Bonn after she released an 88-page report criticizing the way officers conducted traffic stops, citing racial profiling.

The Public Safety Auditor's office was established in 2000 by an Omaha City Council ordinance. When the funding fell through, the department was moved to the mayor's office.

According to a Nov. 15 article in the

Omaha World-Herald, Fahey said Bonn was fired for being insubordinate and unprofessional.

Walker testified Nov. 21 to the New Jersey Advisory Commission on Police Standards in Trenton, N.J. He testified in favor of citizen oversight of the state police, something that was eliminated in Omaha by the mayor's decision, said Walker.

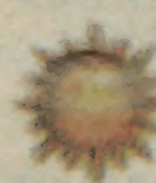
"The reason the New Jersey State Police were sued was because of race discrimination in traffic enforcement," said Walker. "That's because all their internal procedures were inadequate."

The federal government, because of issues similar to those cited in Bonn's report, sued New Jersey State Police.

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news@gateway.unomaha.edu | December 5, 2006

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The fourth letter went to outgoing President/Regent Steve Massara, who will be graduating at the end of the semester. Incoming President/Regent Alexander Williams also spoke about Massara, praising his achievements during the senate's traditional "For the Good of the Order" activity.

"I'm speechless. I'm humbled. I love UNO," Massara said afterwards. "It was a good run."

In other business, the senate approved legislation introduced by Paul Dizona, another graduate college senator, that allocates \$1500 to fund two buses to transport students from campus to the remaining Friday home hockey games for the Maverick's 2006-07 season.

Senators also listened to presentations on the Milo Bail Student Center's food court renovation project

scheduled for this summer and the longer-term Heath, Physical Education and Recreation Building's renovation project.

Robert Duffy, a representative of *USA Today's* Collegiate Readership Program, also spoke to senators about implementing a pilot program that will bring copies of the *Omaha World-Herald*, *USA Today* and *The New York Times* to campus free from Jan. 8 to Feb. 2. During that time, student government plans to administer surveys to determine whether UNO students would want to continue the program using student fees to pay for the service.

Senators also approved a list of meeting times for the next year and voted to recess until their committee meetings on Jan. 11. The next senate session will take place on Jan. 18.

For The Record

In the Nov. 28 issue of the *Gateway*, Wikipedia.org was mistakenly identified as Wikipedia.com. However, individuals using Wikipeda.com on their browser will be redirected to Wikipedia.org. The *Gateway* apologizes for any inconvenience.

From **POLICE**: Page 1

"Not having the auditor in place means that there are a number of problems that are not being addressed and corrected: a pattern of traffic stops that are probably not legal, a pattern of officers being rude and that often leads to confrontations," said Walker.

Despite Bonn describing the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice as "one of the finest criminal justice departments in the country," neither the Omaha Police Department or mayor's office have come to it for advice.

"I was asked [for help] by the Oakland Police Department," said Walker. "But if [the Omaha Police Department or Mayor's

Office] want to, they can; I'm here."

"This is exactly the type of outreach the police department should be doing," said Bonn.

Until a new auditor can be found, Fahey's office has announced plans for assisting citizens in the police complaint process. Complaints can be filed at the mayor's office as well as at the Central Police Headquarters.

Omaha World-Herald articles provided contact information for Ayesha Graves, an assistant to the mayor, for anyone requiring further assistance in filing complaints. Graves did not reply to requests for comment.

From **ALUMNI**: Page 1

degree in museum management from Syracuse University in 1992.

She has worked in art museums in New York, Los Angeles and Houston, as well as Omaha's Joslyn Museum.

García opened El Museo Latino in 1993, at a time when there were only four other Latin museums in the country and none between Chicago and Denver. The museum hosted numerous exhibits and currently holds an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution.

"We strive for excellence," García said. "The goal is to bring the best we can

to our audience."

García also founded and directs a traditional Mexican dance company for children and teens. She has contributed to the community by serving on the board of directors for many organizations.

She taught art history at UNO and served in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's museum studies program. García has won many awards for her service and achievements.

García will receive the citation during UNO's winter commencement on Friday, Dec. 15, at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
KEENA SPENCER-DOBSON
STAFF WRITER

Free concert in the Maverick Buffet

UNO Food Services will host a free concert from noon to 1 p.m. Dec. 5, in the Maverick Buffet, located on the second floor of the Milo Bail Student Center.

Music is provided by the UNO Low Down Brass Ensemble and Trumpet Ensemble. These ensembles play a variety of original works, student compositions, jazz and pop tunes. They consist of trombone, euphonium and tuba.

Sidewalk under construction

The sidewalk west of the Durham Science Center will continue to be closed, but is expected to open Thursday, Dec. 7, when sewer maintenance will be complete.

Students are asked to use alternative routes, such as detouring through the Weber Fine Arts Building, until the construction is complete.

UNO Art Gallery displays bachelor degree students' work

The exhibit "*Speculatio Verto: Observation Interpreted*" will open today and continue to be on display until Dec. 15. This exhibit is open to the public in the UNO Art Gallery. The gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

This exhibit includes the work of four students earning a studio arts degree. Jeff Halvin created a photo-narrative with powerful imagery. Dan Lowe used the power of the camera to evoke emotion and childhood memories. Katrina Pierce used the medium of printmaking to show a 99.9 percent germ-free world. Bart Vargas explores the idea of self through sculpture.

As part of the exhibit, each student, as well as other students earning degrees in art history, will be giving thesis talks. These talks will defend each artist's philosophical, aesthetic, historical, critical and technical aspects of their work or area of specialty. These talks will be held in the UNO Art Gallery on Dec. 4, 6 and 8 from noon to 1 p.m.

Production taps into UNO history

The latest production of the Grande Olde Players Theatre is called "Bootstrappers' Christmas" and

provides a glimpse into the history of UNO. This play is being performed at the Grand Olde Players Theatre, located at 2339 N. 90th St., through Dec. 17. The show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. as well as Sunday at 2 p.m.

In this production, students of Omaha University want to remodel the campus Snack Shack in time for a holiday production. The main character is a bootstrapper that befriends a Cold War widow. There are many 1950s era rock numbers as well as traditional Christmas music. General Curtis LeMay and Omaha University President Milo Bail's characters are based on prominent figures from UNO history.

Tickets cost \$15 for the general public, \$14 for senior citizens and \$5 for children. For tickets, call 397-5262.

Campus Security offers holiday safety tips

The following is a helpful list of safety tips provided by Campus Security to make the upcoming holiday season safe.

- Lock it up, even if you're gone only for a few minutes.
- Avoid leaving valuables or packages in plain view in a vehicle by placing them in the trunk or

between the seats.

• During the holiday break, take valuables home from campus offices and residence halls.

• Anyone who is going to be working on campus late in the evening or when few people are around should consider advising Campus Security so that an officer can pay special attention to the area.

• Make sure doors close completely so strangers cannot follow anyone into a secure building.

• Students who live on campus and are leaving town for the holidays should make sure they have someone keeping an eye on their residence and leave emergency contact information.

THE GATEWAY

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THE GATEWAY
60th and Dodge Streets
MBSC Room 115
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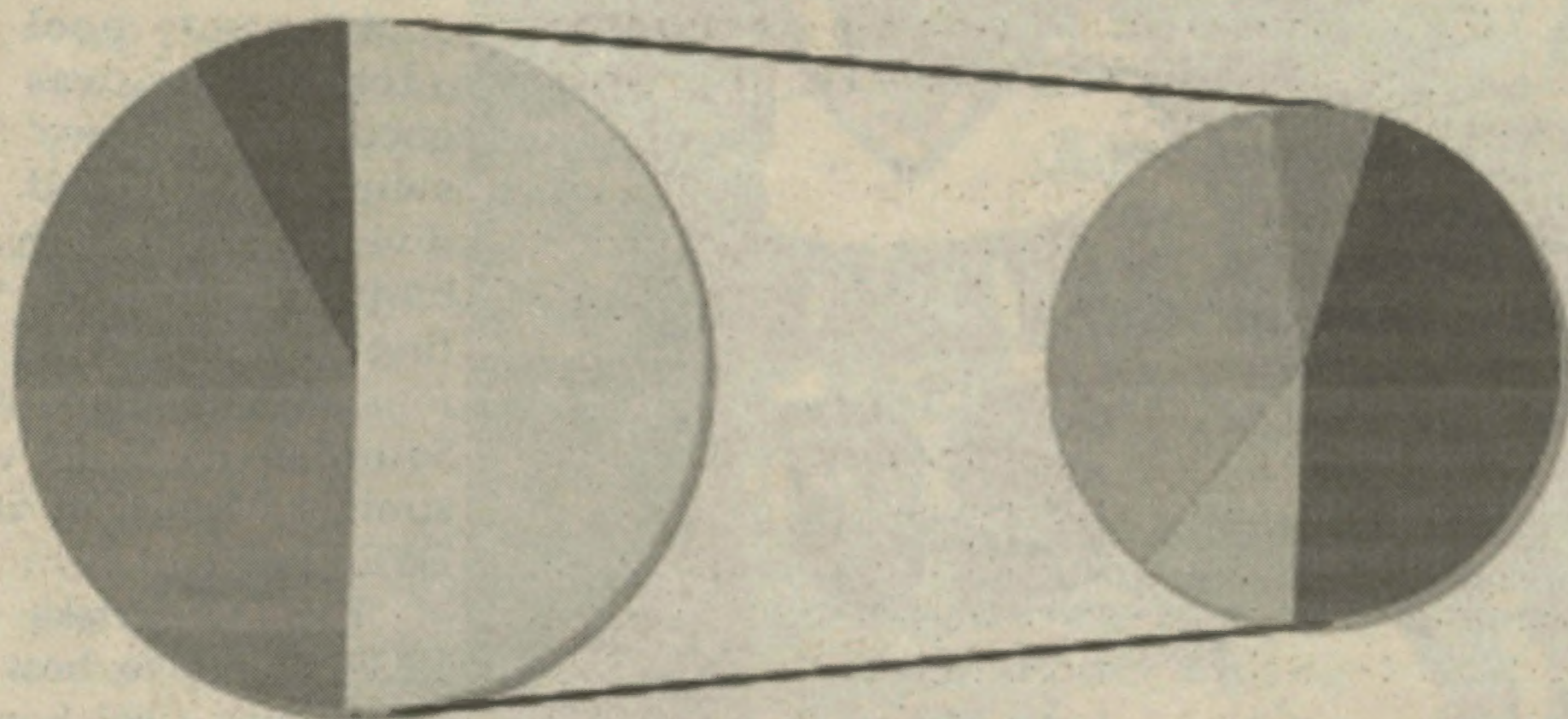


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Walk-Ins Welcome

On heels of World AIDS Day, HIV/AIDS misconception still visible

Risk Factors Associated with HIV Transmission in Nebraska



- Male-to-Male Sexual Contact
- Male-to-Male Sexual Contact & Injection Drug Use
- Hemophilia & Coagulation Disorder
- Heterosexual Contact
- Blood Transfusions, Components, Tissue
- Not Reporting Risk Factor

Nebraska ranks statistically high for reported cases of HIV/AIDS transmitted through male-to-male sexual contact alone, with 51.5 percent of cases compared to only 44.0 percent nationally. Source: Centers for Disease Control, Nov. 2006.

illustration by Scott Stewart

MICHAEL McMANUS
PEOPLE EDITOR

The feeling in the room was surprisingly pleasant. The guests were laughing, sharing stories and drinking vodka by the bottles. Women were strutting the hottest new designers and most men were dressed to the tee in the most stylish of menswear. Looking around, it was easy to forget that everyone gathered at the Holiday Inn Central was there for a Nebraska AIDS Project benefit.

The Nebraska AIDS Project hosted its annual "Night of A Thousand Stars" fundraiser Saturday. The benefit was dubbed "Hollywood at the Holiday," and people were told to "come as a star, or come as you are."

Though the benefit appeared to be a financial success, it doesn't sugar-coat the problems that people inflicted with HIV/AIDS face. One such problem is the misconception that HIV/AIDS is merely a disease that only affects the gay community.

When most people are asked what they associate HIV/AIDS with, the answer is usually the same. Thomas Sanchez, assistant sociology professor at UNO, knows what that answer usually is.

"I think that there is growing awareness that the disease affects everyone and that we are all vulnerable if we engage in risky behavior," he said. "But, yes, I think many people still associate HIV/AIDS with gay men. I might even change many to most."

The Center for Disease Control reports that 1,366 people in Nebraska have HIV/AIDS. Accounting for 832 of those individuals are 703 men who had male-to-male sexual contact, and 144 individuals who had male-to-male sexual contact and used injection drugs. This leaves 534 individuals that contracted the disease from sources other than male-to-male sexual contact.

Mark Patten, a program director at the Nebraska AIDS Project, isn't surprised by these numbers.

"The thing about the gay community is that they are aware," he said. "They understand that they have risks. Other communities don't really understand that HIV can be spread through other means."

Patten said that one-fourth of people that are HIV positive don't even know they have the disease. They simply don't think they are at risk, so they don't get tested.

"They probably aren't gay white men," he said. "They are probably people of color, women and people under the age of 25."

Accounting for the remainder of those infected with HIV/AIDS are 37 who contracted it through Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder, 142 from heterosexual contact, 25 from blood transfusions, blood components or tissue, and 186 that are listed as not reporting the risk factor or identifying the source.

Those numbers are simply the individuals who have been tested. Patten said that if everyone who had HIV/AIDS was tested, the numbers would go through the roof.

Dr. Miguel G. Madariaga, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said he thinks people are finally realizing HIV/AIDS has no boundaries.

"People are overall more educated and know of other potential types of transmission," he said.

Madariaga went on to say that even though the public seems to understand that AIDS doesn't discriminate, the carriers of the disease

still have a high burden of social stigma and people are often "still afraid to interact with someone who is infected."

Patten and his colleagues at NAP said the fear intensifies for those who live in rural communities and small Nebraska towns and cities.

"The last places in the world that you want to be HIV positive is in a rural community," Patten said. "They are usually smaller communities and that six degrees of separation usually comes down to two or three degrees of separation. Everybody knows everybody else's business."

Though NAP feels they are succeeding with making people aware of the misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS, Patten believes they can do more.

"We need to do more, not just locally but on a nationwide scale," he said. "Groups of people who are at risk need to understand that HIV is not a disease of color or sexuality, but a disease that inflicts people that take certain risks. If you take those risks, you can put yourself in danger."

One thing Patten said is a good thing, but a very bad thing at the same time, is the high rates of sexually transmitted diseases in Nebraska.

"Douglas County has been declared an STD epidemic area," he said. "If you have an STD, like gonorrhea or Chlamydia, you are three times more likely to contract HIV if you are exposed to it. This gives us the opportunity to step up and let our voices be heard on the misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS."

UNO music major Kevin Smith still feels that Nebraskans don't understand the complexities of HIV/AIDS, but he is hopeful.

"I think that people in Nebraska are stuck in that small town thought of everything," he said. "I am hopeful, though, with more education and awareness being spread around Nebraska, I think we will catch up and understand the statistical facts soon."

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Women's b-ball team nets win No.100 for Shearer

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO women's basketball team didn't quite make it to 100 Sunday afternoon at Sapp Fieldhouse, but their coach did.

The Mavericks rolled over Hawaii-Hilo 97-61 for their second win in the DoubleTree Downtown Classic and handed Coach Patty Patton Shearer her 100th victory as a college coach. Shearer had 60 wins in four years at Fort Lewis and now has 40 early in her third season with UNO.

Win No. 99 came the night before with the Mavs outpacing Adams State 81-47 in their first game of the tournament.

Senior guard Karen Thies led the team with 28 points on 10-for-15 shooting, including a blistering 6-for-7 from beyond the three-point line and also grabbed a team-high seven rebounds.

Sunday's game served as perhaps a more fitting tribute to Shearer, with six players scoring in double figures and the Mavs grabbing rebounds and starting to click on the transition.

After building a 53-35 lead at the half, the Mavericks ran away with the game in the second and came within a three-pointer of cracking the century mark for the first time this season.

Senior forward Ashley Freerksen was the driving force for UNO, hitting for 19 points and collecting eight rebounds in just 22 minutes on the floor.

Freerksen said it was great for the players to be involved in the milestone win for their coach.

"It was big. We wanted to win this one for her and for us, so it was nice," she said.

Shearer was also quick to point out that the victory belonged not only to her, but to her players and assistants as well.

"It's the win of a lot of players who have taken a gamble on believing in change," said Shearer. "That's sometimes a tough thing to do, is to get great players to come to a program and to believe in what your vision is. We've just been really fortunate to have great players to help us do that and, obviously, I feel like we've got a great staff and great support. It makes for a nice combination."



photo by Patrick Doty

Freshman guard Alyssa Green pushes the action against Hawaii-Hilo Sunday at Sapp Fieldhouse. Green, who finished with 12 points and four rebounds, helped guide the Mavericks to a 97-61 blowout of the Vulcans.

Maverick hockey team picks up two conference wins on road against Bowling Green Falcons

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR



photo by Michelle Bishop

Junior forward Bryan Marshall had a natural hat trick in the Mavericks' game against Bowling Green Friday night, scoring three straight goals in the first period.

The UNO hockey team took two more important steps towards rebuilding their season after weathering a tough eight-game winless streak.

The Mavericks went on the road this weekend and beat Central Collegiate Hockey Association foe Bowling Green twice on their home ice, knocking off the Falcons 4-1 Friday night and 7-1 Saturday night.

Junior forward Bryan Marshall notched a hat trick by the end of the first period in Friday's game to lead the Mavs to their first road win of the season.

Marshall's first goal of the night came on a power play at the 12:13 mark. He followed up with another one five minutes later.

With an unassisted breakaway goal at 19:04, Marshall had his trifecta and an early 3-0 cushion for UNO.

Sophomore forward Tomas Klempa extended the lead to 4-0 on the team's third power play goal of the game 12:00 into the second period.

Bowling Green finally managed to find the net at 13:53 of the second, but it was all they would get and the Mavs cruised to victory.

Saturday night's cap went to senior

Swimming team three-peats at home invite

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR



Jessica Hessel

Home pool advantage was good to the Mavs' swimming and diving team as they built on a strong first day lead with four individual and three relay titles Saturday night to win their third straight Mutual of Omaha Invite at HPER pool.

The Mavericks finished with 1,330 points to best North Central Conference rival South Dakota and easily outdistance the pack in the ten-team meet.

Coach Todd Samland said the team went above and beyond his expectations for how the weekend might go.

"They definitely far exceeded where I thought we'd be at right now, so I was really, really happy with how the athletes performed," said Samland.

Sophomore Lindsey Kline and junior Jessica Hessel paced the swimmers Friday night with two individual victories apiece. Kline won the 1650-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle and Hessel took the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly to help give the Mavericks a 121-point lead heading into day two.

Sophomore Janel Lawonn led the UNO divers with a first-place finish in the 1-meter event and a second in the 3-meter.

Kline and Hessel continued their strong performances Saturday. Kline picked up wins in the 1000-yard and 500-yard freestyle events to finish with four individual titles and Hessel captured the 100-yard freestyle to notch her third individual title.

Sophomore Carrie Murphy had two solo titles, winning the 200-yard breaststroke Saturday to go with her win in the 100-yard breaststroke the night before.

The Mavericks also posted four victories in the relay events, winning the 200-yard freestyle Friday and the 400 and 800-yard freestyle and 200-yard medley Saturday.

Even though Samland praised Kline and Hessel for their big victories, he was quick to point out that every UNO swimmer had a strong showing in one way or another.

"For us to be competitive as a program and do as well, points-wise, as we did against an incredible South Dakota team, it's a total team project," Samland said.

"If we would have come in third I still would have been really happy because we had some great performances."

The Mavs will return to the water Jan. 12 in a dual meet showdown

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See **HOCKEY**: Page 5

Men's basketball gets pair of weekend wins

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR



Zac Robinson

The UNO men's basketball team, hobbled by injuries, gutted out two big wins in the Chuck Stevens Classic in Pueblo, Colo. this weekend to improve to 5-3 on the season.

Sophomore guard Michael Jenkins led the Mavs to a 69-67 win over Regis Friday night with a career-high 25 points. Senior guard Zac Robinson paved the way on Saturday, dropping 26 to help upend tournament host Colorado State-Pueblo 66-60.

For their efforts, Robinson was named tournament MVP and Jenkins earned a spot on the all-tournament team.

Coach Derrin Hansen said the wins were a testament to how hard his shorthanded team has been working.

"We only went out there with eight guys so, to give the kind of effort we did over the course of two nights and to pull out two wins was very encouraging," said Hansen.

After trailing early against Regis, UNO jumped ahead and carried a 33-31 advantage into the half.

The Mavs were able to stretch the lead to eight points late in the game, but Regis mounted a comeback and got within two. Chris Brever's last-second three-pointer missed the mark, though, and the Mavs came away with the victory.

"We had chances to put the game away and we gave them a couple cheap baskets late, which we shouldn't have done," said Hansen. "But we ended up surviving it."

The Mavericks held a wider advantage going into the half Saturday, having built a 38-31 lead against CSU-Pueblo, but couldn't quite run away with it in the second.

Still, Robinson's hot hand from beyond the arc was enough to keep UNO in front and pull out the win. Playing all 40 minutes of the game, the long-range threat was 7-for-12 on three-pointers.

Also having solid weekends for the Mavs were junior forward Denny Johnston, who added 13 points and five rebounds against Regis, and junior Jerry Bennett, who contributed 10 points in the win over CSU-Pueblo.

While Hansen had strong praise for Robinson and Jenkins, he was quick to point out that, with only three players on the bench, every one of his athletes has been important.

"No matter who's getting the points or who's doing what, it's been a team effort," he said.

And, with no immediate relief in sight, Hansen said it's important that the guys who are on the floor see a good return on their investment.

"Especially Saturday night, to execute things down the stretch the way we want to and to control the game was a great morale boost for our guys," said Hansen.



Derrin Hansen



Michael Jenkins

From **HOCKEY**: Page 4

forward Scott Parse, though it took him slightly longer to get his three goals.

Parse got the Mavs on the board first again, netting an assist from senior forward Alex Nikiforuk at 9:16 of the first period for a 1-0 UNO lead.

But Bowling Green responded with a power play goal from Derek Whitmore to tie the score just before the period ended.

Unfortunately for the Falcons, the Mavs came out fired up in the second period and built a 4-1 lead off of two more goals from Parse and a goal from senior forward Brent Kisio.

Parse completed his hat trick at 18:05 to give UNO a three-goal advantage.

The Mavericks stayed hot in the third, with Klempa scoring at the 3:34 mark, Kisio picking up his second of the night three minutes later and Nikiforuk finishing off the rout with four minutes to go in the game.

UNO has now won three games in a row and stands at 6-7-4 overall and 5-6-1 in the CCHA. The Mavs will be at home in the Qwest Center this weekend for two non-conference games against Bentley College

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(The only better BLT is mama's BLT, this one rules!)

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- #8 BILLY CLUB[®]**
Roast beef, ham, provolone, Dijon mustard, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Here's to my old pal Billy who invented this great combo.)
- #9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB[®]**
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Arts & Leisure

December 5, 2006 | a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu

Page 6

Andrew Cumbee | Arts & Leisure Editor

"Friday Night Lights" easily best show on TV you're not watching

REVIEW BY
RYAN RAKOWSKY
STAFF WRITER

Family rifts, pigskin action, small-town conflicts and intriguing teen-soap plotlines on the level of the best teen soaps like "Dawson's Creek" dominate NBC's sterling new series "Friday Night Lights." To borrow a phrase from *TV Guide*, it's the best show you're not watching.

Puzzlingly, the show manages to attract a mere seven million viewers each week. Given the success of football-themed theatricals at the box office (most of them lesser creative enterprises), this series should have been a slam dunk. Or a touchdown. Whatever. The show is even based on a popular movie of the same name. If only things were so easy to predict in television.

Fortunately for viewers, cooler, more patient heads are prevailing at NBC these days, which has extended the show's order to a full season of 22 episodes.

True, some people are made dizzy by the show's signature shaky camera work, but the effect generally enhances the show's allure.

Kyle Chandler is turning in one of the most disarming performances in all of television as Coach Eric Taylor. As head of the Panthers, he is ultimately responsible for an entire town's reason for being; the identity the small community of Dillon, Texas, rides on this one man's shoulders. It seems no matter which way he turns, someone is nattering at him, offering unsolicited advice. Whether dealing with his family, the players or the townsfolk, Chandler is the show's true heavy, and he makes it easy to buy the coach's

unmatched leadership and unfettered morality. That skill makes Connie Britton's ability to keep up as his wife and the school's guidance counselor all the more impressive. Their conversations, even when they're bickering, are one of the show's most amusing pleasures.

After much contemplation (not to mention much viewer anticipation), their teenage daughter Julie finally agreed to go on a date with newly minted quarterback Matt Saracen. Saracen is, of course, not your typical football player. A backup quarterback thrust into the spotlight when the star of the team has a paralyzing mishap on the field, Saracen is sensitive and a little bit bumbling, but in a completely charming way, conveniently making it absolutely impossible not to root for him.

There are other dramas and many more characters to follow, running the gamut from the player whose life was changed by that tragic football injury to another who is an alcoholic involved in a traitorous love triangle, from a dementia-afflicted grandma to a dad at war in Iraq.

In recent episodes, the pressure on high school athletes to bulk up through the use of steroids has been addressed in painful sequences, and one story strand featured an unemployed, washed-up former football star desperately seeking a job.

"Friday Night Lights" handles all of these issues painfully, heartbreakingly well. The series may occasionally be hard to watch, but it offers a uniquely satisfying weekly glimpse of small town life. It's not even a contest. "Friday Night Lights" is a winner.

Grade: A



Kyle Chandler stars as Coach Eric Taylor in NBC's underwatched new football drama "Friday Night Lights."

Is it hip or just hype? Crampton DJs at Nico in part three of his series

On The Beat



Brent Crampton

When I last left you, I was about to step into the role of DJ at Nico. Rich Wahl, Nico's general manager, called me hours before Thanksgiving Eve's festivities and asked me to be a part of them. I agreed.

If you'll remember, Nico had made some changes to its atmosphere and feel. This was already underway, but

in part due to a bad review that I gave them in this column months ago. Anyway, on to the DJing.

I opted to use the old hole-in-the-wall DJ booth vs. the new setup merely because I could work the Rane East-Coast favored rotary style DJ mixer. A gem in its own right, I must give credit to Nico for having the best DJ mixer in the state. But the only reason why they got it was because they initially hired a New York sound engineer to design their system. We cranked up the sound and I began my routine in the dark booth.

The place was dead. About 11 p.m., things had still not picked up, and I was beginning to get the song requests from the patrons. Not thinking, I accidentally left my "No F*cking Requests EVER!" t-shirt that a West Coast DJ had so keenly designed. But instead I text messaged my friends with "Help me fight off the request badgers at Nico tonight,"

and one took it upon himself to do just that. Greg Jackson, thankfully, pre-screened the desolate and sickly utterances of, "Do you have 'Sexy Back' by Justin Timberlake?"

But there was no pre-screening of Rich, who humbly informed me that the owner of the club, Ralph had arrived and wanted me to play something "familiar" so people would start dancing.

Not being a DJ of the Carson Daly type, I said, "okay" and whipped out the Jazzanova remix of Common's "Go." Familiar and catchy, right? But with an underground touch via Jazzanova's rework.

People didn't go anywhere. Well, except one, who made it past my pre-screen, despite my reflections, and up

into the DJ booth.

"Hi, I'm a host here at Nico and the music..."

"Wait, a host?... What do you mean? Nico's hired you?" I said perplexed.

"Yes, Nico's hired me to be a host, and I need you to play something not so mellow," he continued.

"I know it's slow, but me and my friends want to dance. So I don't care if it's hip-hop, pop, techno... whatever, just bring it up."

So I knew I was on unfamiliar territory. The type of territory that if I had bothered to turn on MTV or the numerous radio stations in Omaha, I might have understood my peers there at Nico. But instead, I just didn't get it. So I nodded, told him I got it on the platter, and he moved on.

I caved and played "Sexy Back," but tried to remain credible by playing the unreleased afro-house remix from Carlos Mena. But before doing that, I had made a prediction to my badger, pre-screening friend: "Watch them, they'll start dancing now."

The song came on, and I saw people move like a herd of cows chasing the rhythmic salt licks, instinctively knowing that it was time to sway in synchronicity to the beat. Once the song came to a close, I mixed in a hip-house track, thinking that would maintain the crowd.

It didn't.

Then Rich came up again. He had been hearing quite a few complaints. I told him I was doing the best I could. He soon left.

But it wasn't long before he came back. A bouncer had trailed in behind him, reiterating that the crowd thought I sucked as a DJ.

Then something triggered in my mind! Wasn't there a DJ in the lounge section playing a private party that was DJing all mainstream music? Yes, there was!

Happy with my new discovery, I presented Rich with the solution.

"Rich... How about you have the other DJ play the main dancefloor?"

"Well how would that work out?"

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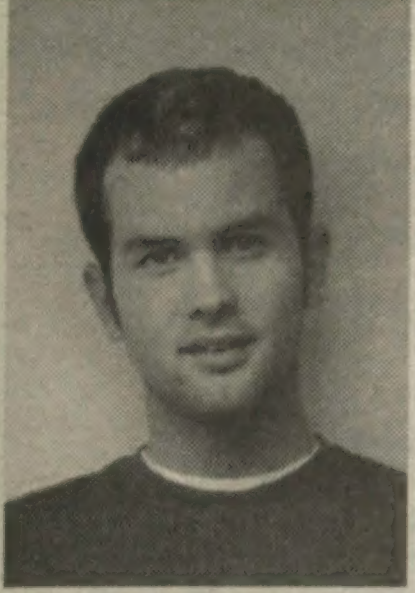
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See **ON THE BEAT**: Page 8

The Holidays: A time of peace, love and a search for acceptance

How Typical



Michael McManus

So the holidays are upon us and Christmas cheer is in full. It's time to deck the halls with holly and consume vast amounts of figgy

pudding (whatever that might be). I'm not afraid to say that I am a holiday junky. Yes, my holiday decorations have been up since before Thanksgiving. And yes, I have been listening to holiday music since pre-Halloween. I'm an eggnog-drinking, candy-cane eating, present-wrapping holiday fool.

However, when I put all the material possessions aside (as hard as that may be), one thing remains. My family. My family is what makes the holidays. My mom's warm smile and quick-fire cookie-baking hands. My dad's precision and expertise while opening holiday gifts. My older sister's constant enthusiasm and somewhat annoying obsession with anything red and green. As cheesy and Hallmark card-ish as that may sound, it's my family that makes the holidays so special to me.

I suppose I should feel fortunate and happy that I have such a family around the holidays – but I would hardly say that's the case.

I often get mad at myself for thinking to far into the future. I'm only 22 years old, but have never had the luxury of "living in the moment." I always worry about things to come and what the repercussions of my actions today will do to me tomorrow. What's going to happen when I fall in love with another man and want to spend the holidays with him? How is

my mom going to respond when I say I'm bringing my boyfriend over for the holidays? Honestly....how?

The thought of my mother's potential response causes tears to well in my eyes, even as I'm writing this. I can hear it right now. "Michael, you know that we love you, but you know that we don't support you being gay. Why don't you just come by yourself."

By myself. I'm tired of being by myself. I can tell you right now that when I meet the man I choose to spend my life with, an answer like that will not be sufficient. Which worries me even more.

I love my parents more than I could ever express in words, and this love is reciprocated in full. I can't imagine living my life without them, yet I also can't imagine living my life for them or alone.

I guess I don't know what I'll do. A part of me is hoping that I will meet that guy who can impress my parents the way a girl could. Someone with morals, a future and religious beliefs. I find myself not looking for guys that would make me happy, but instead guys that could potentially make my family happy, if he even exists.

Even if my parents one day do decide to open their door to another man, I don't even know if I would want him to walk through the door. For as religious and loving as my parents are, I also know that they are very close-minded to anything that the bible condemns. Would they even include us? Or would they invite us just to make me happy?

I suppose I'll cross that bridge when it comes, but it's a bridge that I've been dreading for years.

I love my family and my family loves me. I just hope that one day, when I walk into their home for the holidays with another man, I can look at my partner and say "they love us."

Happy Holidays.

To put Christ back in Christmas, advocate peace, not war this year

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

If there is one thing any political observer can readily observe, it's this: People politicize everything. And, in the world of politics, cold winds and

Christian Holiday Is Worse Than You Thought. FOX News propaganda artist Bill O'Reilly braved public ridicule to participate in last year's battles. One also cannot forget to mention the public outcry when George W. Bush's decided to exclude the word "Christmas" from last year's White House holiday card.

In fact, there is so much material from last year that, if you're interested, I recommend visiting Media Matters' Web site at mediamatters.org/issue_topics/war_on_christmas. In particular, Simon Maloy's recent sarcastic commentary "No more secrecy – Christmas must be destroyed!" wraps up some of the history of the debate quite nicely.

Of course, this entire conflict reaches the point of absurdity very quickly. The truth is that Christmas

See **STEWART**: Page 8

Gift cards say buy your own darned gift this holiday season

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

As I sit down after surviving yet another Christmas shopping fest, I think I'd better comment on something I've seen plenty of while trying to

get back home: gift cards.

Personally, I'm not getting any for the people I'm getting gifts for. I'd rather get them actual gifts than those pieces of plastic. But why? Those little pieces of plastic let them pick the gift that they want, so you won't be wrong.

(Insert sarcastic laugh here.) Right. I think it was about a couple of years ago when I first decided against gift cards. I think it was an edition of "Neil Cavuto's Common Sense," a quick editorial done by Neil Cavuto, Fox News business anchor and commentator, at the end of his program "Your World w/ Cavuto," but I could be wrong. (It sounded like something he might say though.)

His thinking behind the gift card was this, if I remember correctly: "Listen, either I was too busy or too darned lazy to actually buy you a gift, so basically I'm just giving you this and telling you to buy your own darned gift."

Truth be told, I'd rather give someone a gift, and be wrong in the process, instead of giving them one of those gift cards and saying, "Buy your own darned gift."

Let's look on the bright side. If I am wrong, all I do is pull out the receipt and say, "I am sorry. I'll tell you what. I'll go with you to return it, you can use the money to get whatever gift you actually want, and I'll learn what exactly you want." It's a learning experience if you got it wrong. Take advantage of it.

Some of you might retort and say, "Well, if you would've gotten them a gift card in the first place, you would've been able to avoid that." Maybe, but I've found a way to circumvent that. Well, two ways of doing so...

The first way is the most direct way: Ask! When I was busy working up a budget, I walked up and asked my father what he wanted. He wanted the TV movie *Medusa's Child*, but I couldn't find a copy of it for purchase, save for the novel. He also said that he wanted the movie *The Beast*, about some giant monster squid. Yeah, he likes the old style of monster movies. So I'm getting him *The Beast*, as well as *The Beast Must Die*, a movie where you have to guess who is the werewolf before he or she turns into one. Spooky.

The second way is less direct, but you can pick up a lot of good info: Observe. My mother, another on my list, never misses an episode of either "Grey's Anatomy" or "ER." You could practically bank on it. So what did I get her? The first season of "Grey's Anatomy" on DVD. (My father got her "ER"'s second season.)

So it may be a lot of trouble just to go out and get a gift. Places are packed, the thing you're looking for may not be in the first place you look and you almost get ran over in the process. Or you get a small card, throw some money on it and let whomever you're giving it to face that mess.

Maybe I'm just a rank sentimentalist, but the gifts I get from people tell me that whoever got that gift cared enough to risk all the trouble to get that to me. The gift cards, on the other hand, won't mean as much. They'd mean that whomever gave the gift was either too busy or lazy that they would rather pass the bucks, literally, to me.

It's your decision, though. I'm not condemning gift cards, but perhaps they should be treated as a last resort, a rain check if you can't get what you're looking for. But, maybe, that's as far as I'm concerned...

Letter to the Editor

To whoever it was that found my billfold and left it with the Communications Office in Arts and Sciences last week, and then left a note on my car telling me about it. I did not even realize I had lost my billfold until I saw the note. It was so great to get it back with everything

inside-- including the cash, credit cards, driver's license, student id, etc. Thank you SO much. I am sending a donation in your "name" since you did not leave your name.

Joni Lawver
History Graduate Student

the gateway

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From **ON THE BEAT**: Page 6

"Simple, he just comes up here, and starts playing the next song," I said.

"... And you transition to the lounge and play the rest of the night there?" he said expectantly.

"No... I just leave."

Well for whatever reason, that didn't pan out and I was left watching the digital clock tick to closing time like sand sifting through an hour glass. I was left, anticipating this countdown

to 1 a.m. liberation; when I would be set free to head to the after hours party, were I would have a musical freedom, and a respondent crowd.

Maybe Nico is different with its new approach to music and new policies. But as I learned that night: some things never change.

And that does it for me this semester. I'll be back with more in January. Thanks for reading On the Beat.

From **STEWART**: Page 7

has transcended its Christian, Roman and pagan roots to become a holiday that cuts across religious, political and national divisions.

Historically speaking, the period around Christmas has been marked by several celebrations, including Yule and the Roman festival of Saturnalia. The modern holiday has roots in these traditions as well as the Christian tradition.

Personally, I am an agnostic, but I still celebrate Christmas. I also observe Yule and have, on occasion, had parties for Saturnalia as well. For me, Christmas is not about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, it's about peace, love and happiness.

It's about the Beatitudes, the lessons of love and justice that are common to all enlightened thought, from Christ to Socrates, regardless of whether you're an atheist, a child of Abraham, a Buddhist or anything else.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:7-9)

I believe people who focus on things like the War on Christmas, or any of the other diversions offered by propagandists from all sides of the political spectrum, often miss out on lessons like the Beatitudes.

This also reminds me of something Kurt Vonnegut wrote in his memoir *A Man Without a Country*: "For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes. But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course that's Moses, not Jesus."

If people want to put Christ back in Christmas, they should focus on Christ's message of peace, not wage a war against liberals. They should encourage Christians to recognize both the religious significance of the holiday as well as the secular significance related to both Christ's message and, to sound like a Christmas TV special, "the meaning of the season."

This year we need a Christmas truce in the War on Christmas, so everyone can enjoy this holiday season, no matter what names they use or what beliefs they hold.

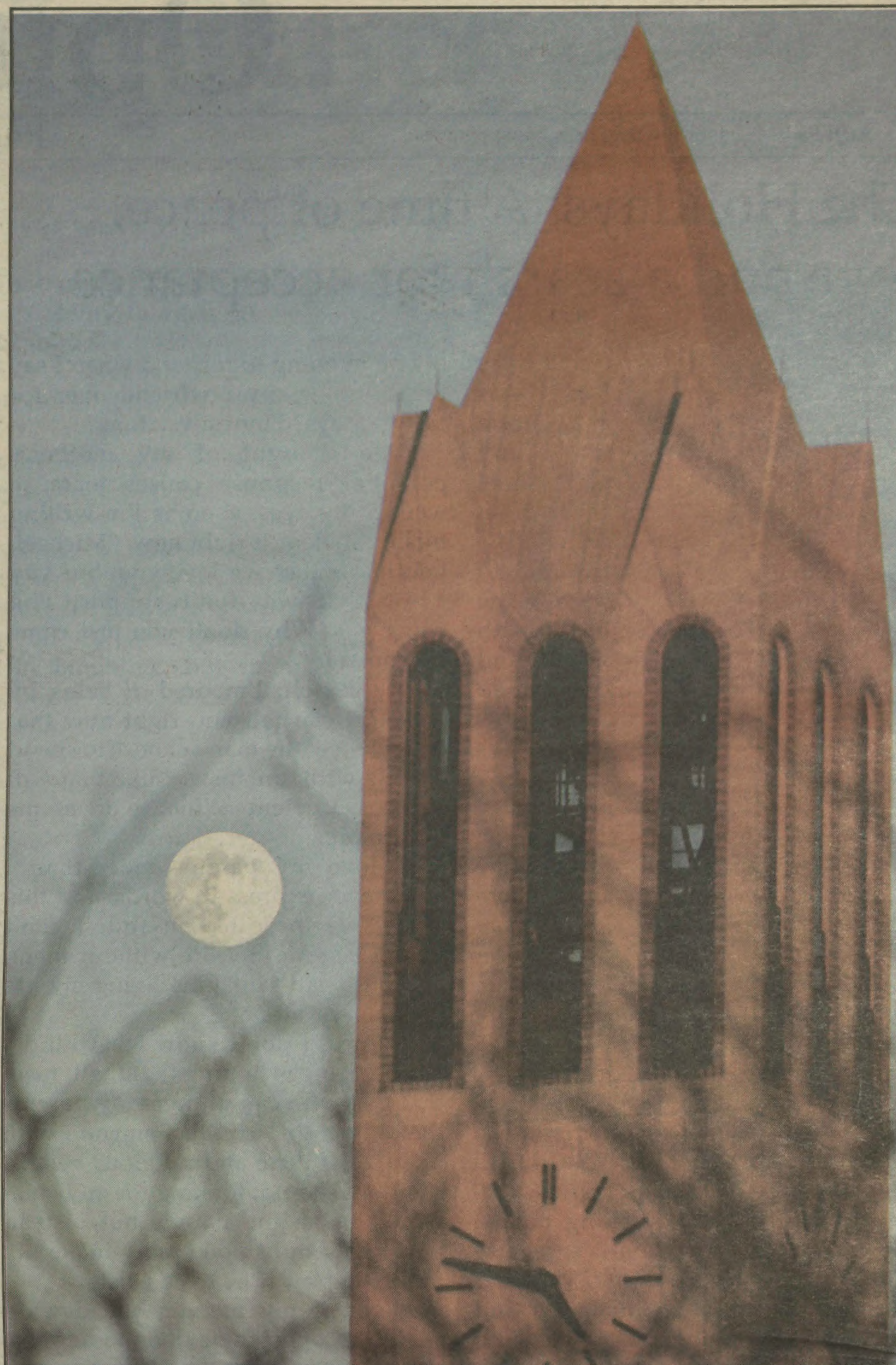


photo by Patrick Doty

Moonlight Serenade

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